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3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
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Release No.: 10262004-1

Contact: Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917
holly.martien@la.usda.gov

OVER 2,000 RURAL RESIDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW WATER SYSTEM Jefferson Davis Parish Celebrates Completion of New \$7.1 Million Water System

THORNWELL, October 26, 2004 – A group of community leaders and water system supporters gathered today to celebrate the grand opening of a new water system in Jefferson Davis Parish. The Jefferson Davis Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 celebrated completion of Phase I and II of the new water system by hosting an open house at their offices on Aguiard Road in Thornwell.

“This new system will serve over 2,000 customers,” said Greg Bordelon, Jefferson Davis Water and Sewer Commission No. 1 President. “It has taken a lot of hard work by many people to make this water system a reality.”

The total project includes two water wells, an elevated tank, office building, emergency generator, and approximately 225 miles of distribution lines. Fire hydrants, office equipment, a computer system, filters, and softeners were also part of this water system project.

The water system was funded by \$4.9 million in USDA Rural Development loans and \$2.2 million in USDA Rural Development grants. “USDA Rural Development offers affordable financing to rural communities for development, improvement, and expansion of rural water systems,” said Michael B. Taylor, USDA Rural Development State Director. “We are proud to be a part of this water project in Jeff Davis Parish.”

In addition to funding rural water systems, USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. The Louisiana Rural Development State Office is located at 3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302, and the telephone number is (318) 473-7921. There are four area offices located throughout the state to serve Louisiana residents. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

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